

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are replacement copies of FIGS.1A, 21, 22A and 22B revised so as to eliminate the objections set forth by the Examiner.

In particular, each of FIGS.1A, 21, 22A and 22B will have been labeled as "Prior Art". Additionally, in FIG.21, blocks 103, 104, 105, 107, 108 and 109 will have been labeled with appropriate descriptive terminology.

The above-noted changes do not introduce new matter to the disclosure of the present application. Rather, they merely eliminate the objections raised by the Examiner in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the outstanding Official Action. Accordingly, entry of these replacement drawing sheets is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-14 will have been amended and the specification and drawings will have also been revised. No claims will have been added and no claims will have been canceled.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for acknowledging his Claim for Foreign Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received. Additionally, Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for citing and considering the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on March 7, 2002.

Turning to the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings and required Figures 1A, 21, 22A and 22B to be labeled "Prior Art". By the present amendment, Applicant has submitted replacement drawing sheets in which each of the above-noted figures have been appropriately labeled by the legend "Prior Art".

In addition, the Examiner objected to Figure 21 and required labels be provided for blocks 103, 105, 107 and 109. In response, Applicant has included, in the above-noted replacement sheets, appropriate descriptive labels for each of the above-noted blocks as well as for other blocks in Figure 21.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above-noted replacement drawing sheets and withdrawal of the outstanding objection to the drawings.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the disclosure because of a number of informalities. By the present Response, Applicant has amended the specification to eliminate the noted informalities.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the claims for various informalities. By the present Response, Applicant has eliminated the noted informalities as well as reviewed the claims and eliminated any other language informalities found therein. The Examiner is respectfully thanked for bringing these matters to Applicant's attention so that they can be eliminated.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner asserted that these claims fail to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner gave several examples of language which was either unclear or which had insufficient antecedent basis.

By the present Response, Applicant has reviewed all of the claims and has revised the same in order to enhance clarity and to ensure that adequate and sufficient antecedent basis is provided for any term or limitation set forth in the claims. Accordingly, in view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims in the present application are both in proper form as well as in condition for allowability. An action to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

Applicant notes that none of the amendments to the claims in the present application have been made in view of the prior art and additionally that none of the amendments to the claims narrow the claims. Accordingly, no prosecution history estoppel should attach to any of these changes.

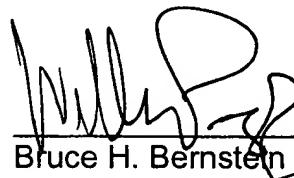
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has eliminated the Examiner's basis for the objection to the specification, drawings and claims. Applicant has also eliminated the basis for the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicant has placed the application in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an indication to such effect in due course.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Naoshige KIDO



Naoshige Kido's signature, which is a stylized, cursive script.

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33,630



Bruce H. Bernstein's signature, which is a stylized, cursive script.

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